

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1-16. (Canceled).

17. (New) A method of identifying a subject having an increased likelihood of having an increased sensitivity to stress, comprising detecting the presence of at least one serotonin transporter gene promoter long allele in the subject, whereby the presence of at least one serotonin transporter gene promoter long allele identifies the subject as having an increased likelihood of having an increased sensitivity to stress.

18. (New) A method of identifying a subject having an increased likelihood of having an increased physiological response to stress, comprising detecting the presence of at least one serotonin transporter gene promoter long allele in the subject, whereby the presence of at least one serotonin transporter gene promoter long allele identifies the subject as having an increased likelihood of having an increased physiological response to stress.

19. (New) A method of identifying a subject having an increased likelihood of developing a cardiovascular disease associated with an increased physiological response to stress, comprising detecting the presence of at least one serotonin transporter gene promoter long allele in the subject, whereby the presence of at least one serotonin transporter gene promoter long allele identifies the subject as having an increased likelihood of an increased physiological response to stress and thereby as having an increased likelihood of developing a cardiovascular disease associated with an increased physiological response to stress.

20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the stress is psychological stress.

21. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the stress is psychological stress.
22. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the stress is psychological stress.
23. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the cardiovascular disease is hypertension.
24. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the cardiovascular disease is coronary heart disease.
25. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the cardiovascular disease is stroke.
26. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the cardiovascular disease is an atrial or ventricular arrhythmia.